

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19-35 are pending in this application. Claims 23, 25, 27-31, and 33 stand rejected and claims 19-22, 24, 26, 32, and 34 are objected to. By this amendment, claim 18 is cancelled without prejudice and claims 19, 23, 25, 29, 31, and 33 are amended. Specifically, claim 19 is rewritten in independent form and claims 23, 25, 29, 31, and 33 have had their dependency amended to depend from allowable claim 19. In light of amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claim is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 18, 23, 25, 27-31, and 33 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.: 5,509,491 ("Hall"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. With respect to claim 18, Applicants note that the cancellation of claim 18 renders this rejection moot. Further, the remaining claims now depend from allowable claim 19. Thus, while Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are not obvious in view of Hall, in an effort to expedite prosecution Applicants have amended the claims such that all of the claims now depend from allowable claim 19.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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